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Proposed New Claims

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- 5 1. Use of a composition comprising vitamin K or a derivative thereof, optionally together with vitamin D or a derivative thereof, in the manufacture of a medicament or nutritional formulation for treating or preventing age-related stiffening of arteries, not associated with arteriosclerosis.
- 10 2. Use of a composition according to claim 1, wherein said vitamin K is vitamin K₁ (phylloquinone) or vitamin K₂ (menaquinone).
- 15 3. Use of a composition according to claim 2 wherein said vitamin K is vitamin K₁ (phylloquinone).
4. Use of a composition according to any one of claims 1 to 3 wherein the daily dosage of vitamin K or a derivative thereof is in the range 50µg-1000µg.
- 20 5. Use of a composition according to any one of claims 1 to 4 wherein the medicament or nutritional composition comprises vitamin D or a derivative thereof.
- 25 6. Use of a composition according to claim 5 wherein said vitamin D is vitamin D₃ (cholecalciferol).
- 30 7. Use of a composition according to any of claims 1 to 6 wherein the medicament or nutritional formulation is for administration to a postmenopausal woman.
- 35 8. Use of a composition according to any of claims 1 to 7 wherein the medicament or nutritional formulation is to be administered over a period of at least 12 months, preferably at least 36 months.
9. Use of a composition according to claim 1 wherein said arteries are the common carotid arteries.
- 35 10. Use of a composition according to any one of claims 1-9 for promoting healthy arteries, comprising vitamin K or a derivative thereof, optionally together with

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vitamin D or a derivative thereof, further comprising one or more additional components selected from: polyphenols, vitamin C, vitamin E (tocopherols and/or tocotrienols), L-arginine, phytosterols, antihypertensive peptides, soluble fibers (e.g. guar, pectin), omega-3, omega-6 and/or omega-9 fatty acids, carnitine, taurine, coenzyme Q10, 5 creatine, folic acid, folates, magnesium, potassium, vitamin B6, and vitamin B12.

11. Use of a composition according to claim 10 which comprises in a single dose: 0.5-1mg vitamin K and 5-10 μ g vitamin D.

10. 12. Use of a composition according to claim 10 which comprises: 0.5-1.5mg vitamin K; 5-10 μ g vitamin D; 450-550mg Calcium; 7-12 mg Zinc; and 100-200mg Magnesium.

13. Use of a composition according to claim 12 which comprises about 1mg Vitamin K; 8 μ g vitamin D₃; 500mg Calcium, 10mg Zinc; and 150mg Magnesium.

14. Use of a composition according to any of claims 10 to 13 which is a food or beverage product or a dietary supplement.

20. 15. A method of preventing or treating age-related arterial stiffening, not associated with arteriosclerosis, comprising administering to a person in need of such treatment an effective amount of vitamin K or a derivative thereof and optionally vitamin D or a derivative thereof.